

Parish Council Minutes

January 31, 2012

In attendance: Bruce Weaver, Sandi Watson, Barbara Langill, Carrie Pericola, Dotty Whittier, Chuck Cotting, Debbie Cotting, Jim Marshall, Linda Ladd, Jeff Law, Dennis Bailey.

Moderator, Bruce Weaver convened the meeting at 7:05 P.M., and Jim Marshall offered the mediation.

Council approved the minutes of the January 4, 2012 meeting.

Pastor's Report: Rev. Bailey reviewed his January activities including pastoral visits, funerals, weddings, confirmation class, and the special prayer service on January 29. He also outlined some of the worship plans for February, March, and April. Dennis has ordered his new computer; the cost is \$1295.08. He will be on vacation from March 2-9. The service on March 4 will be led by Jeff Langill and Rev. Marie Lucca, pastor of A Different Christian Voice church in Middleton, MA.

Financial Reports: Jeff Law distributed the Treasurer's Report with data as of Dec. 31, 2011. He noted that expenses are \$4530.41 better than budget with the greatest savings in the Utilities and Pastor Expenses line items. Income continues to be worse than budgeted (\$18,701.51). Jeff noted that pre-paid pledges received at the end of the last fiscal year as well as some people who may be behind on their pledges are the likely cause of lower income. Jeff cautioned that we need to continue fund-raising efforts.

Financial Secretary, Jim Marshall reported that the year-end statements he sent out have caused some confusion because the statement includes two fiscal years. He plans to send another statement including data from July 1, 2011 through January 31, 2012.

Christian Education: Barbara Langill informed Council that there have been 3-5 children in the nursery each week, and Victoria Martin is doing a great job as lead caregiver. Diana and Lauren Gerbick, both RN's, led a class on the use of Epi Pens for the nursery caregivers on Jan. 18. Rotation workshops, focused on "Jesus calls the Disciples", are going well. On Feb. 12, there will be a special class for all grades tied into the "Spread the Love" theme. The focus during Lent will be "A Walk through Holy Week", and Barbara hopes to find a way to involve the congregation, perhaps on Palm Sunday. Thirty-five Middle School and High School youth went tubing on Jan. 29. On Feb. 5, the High School group will make and sell sandwiches and salads to raise money for this year's mission trip. Also on Feb. 5, the Middle School youth will collect donations to benefit Haven from Hunger. The High School youth are collecting paperback books to donate to the prison book program. Barbara is holding a meeting after the service on Feb. 5 to gauge interest in a whole-church mission trip to Joplin, Missouri from August 12-18. She's also planned an informational meeting for Tuesday, Feb. 7 to gauge interest in the UCC National Youth Event from July 10-13.

Outreach: Sandi Watson reported that her Outreach team, Liz DeSantis, Rick Carey, Jeff Langill, Jeff Law, and Sandi Watson, has met twice. The Outreach team will work to raise awareness of local needs, raise awareness about what our church is doing to serve others, and develop opportunities for hands-on outreach. Sandi thanked Chuck Cotting for helping to clean out the Missions Pantry, Donna Marino for initiating Spread the Love-a drive to collect goods needed by clients of the Lynn Shelter Association, and the Church School children for participating in Spread the Love.

Membership: Dotty Whittier noted that plans are in place for Trivia Night and the Silent Auction. Ninety-eight people have signed up to participate. Dotty thanked the Church school children, High School youth, and Confirmands for helping with greeting and coffee hour.

Education: Barbara Langill reported that the Confirmation Retreat is scheduled for the first weekend in March.

Diaconate: Linda Ladd reviewed upcoming services and events including Ash Wednesday, Outreach Ministries Sunday, Girl Scout Sunday, Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday, Easter breakfast, and Easter services. On March 25, the choir will sing a

cantata in morning worship, and the St. Patrick's Family Players will perform The Resurrection at 7 P.M. in the sanctuary. General discussion ensued regarding publicity for these events. Linda noted that the embroidered tablecloths were re-discovered recently. She suggested making a list of all the names on them, then making an effort to get the names of people who haven't signed them. Council agreed and voted to designate the cost of signing: \$5.00/person or \$10/family.

Stewardship: Carrie Pericola reported that the Stewardship Team hopes to make this year's campaign personal by sharing stories, both in church services and Tower Notes, about why Centre Church is important to us. The theme of the campaign is "Many Hands, Many Stories, One Church." Cindy Trayers has agreed to do the graphics for all printed materials. The campaign will kick-off on March 18. Carrie will share her story that day, and the Stewardship Team will host coffee hour. Packets will be available in the Library on that day; packets not picked up will be mailed on March 19. Carrie outlined the schedule of speakers for each Sunday of the campaign. April 29th will be Stewardship Sunday when, in place of a sermon, three people will share stories. Pledge cards will be distributed on that day and collected during the service at the front of the sanctuary. Each person who submits a pledge card will be given a paper hand to add to a large logo on the wall. As pledges come in, the logo will be completed. A thank-you luncheon will be held after the service. The Stewardship Team will be working on a letter for the packet and gathering data and pictures for a narrative budget which will also be included in the packet.

Finance: Chuck Cotting reported on several property-related issues. Jim Wersackas has completed the heat installation and has a ½ day left to complete the A/C installation. All extra piping has been removed, but the holes have not been filled yet. Jim installed a separate zone with its own thermostat and pump for the Kindergarten classroom. Additional temporary repairs have been made to the shingle roof. Replacement of rubber roof over Tower Day is pending. Scott Baker submitted revised estimates for parking lot lighting and placement of an additional post light near the Main St. entrance. A replacement fixture, the new style Mini Sky Globe, has been ordered and should arrive in mid-February. Scott is working on an estimate for adding another spot light to the rear church wall to light the parking lot entrance as well as an estimate for heater cables for the main roof over the office and sanctuary. Chuck is waiting for estimates to re-build the handicapped ramp posts. One contractor suggested relocating or eliminating the downspout from the main roof since snow melts and re-freezes causing large ice dams over the corner of the roof. Scott Desantis of the Property Team did some painting in the area where the Missions Bulletin used to hang. He and Chuck repaired the loose post at the top of the middle stair case where the gate is positioned. Sandi Watson and Chuck cleaned the Missions pantry to make it available for donations. Chuck circulated a revised Donation Rate Schedule for Council's consideration. He is involved in continuing discussions with Dan of Super Soccer Stars in regard to their renting Richards Hall for classes two days/week.

Fundraiser update: Council reviewed current fundraising activities and discussed some new fundraisers that could be implemented this spring. A team will be created to explore the possibility of a spring golf outing.

New Business: Linda Ladd reported that the Web Hosting package expires in May 2012. Council authorized the \$35 renewal fee. Dennis informed Council of a community service project that Karen Harrington would like to pursue on her own (not church affiliated). Karen would like to provide new residents of Lynnfield with a welcome basket. She would solicit donations from local businesses and perhaps include brochures from local churches-much like the Welcome Wagon baskets from years ago. Karen plans to present her idea to the Board of Selectman.

There being no further business, Council voted to adjourn the meeting at 9:20 P.M. Dennis led a closing prayer.

Respectfully submitted, Debbie Cotting, Recording Secretary

Next Council Meeting: Tuesday, February 28. Meditation by Kathi Martin